UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _23 May 2008_.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-47_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _29,31,36,38,43 and 45_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-28, 30, 32-35, 37, 39-42, 44 and 46-47_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _04/02/2008_.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is response to Applicants' AMENDMENT filed on 05/23/2008.

2.   Claims 29, 31, 36, 38, 43 and 45 have been cancelled.

3.   Claims 1-28, 30, 32-35, 37, 39-42, 44 and 46-47 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments filed 05/23/2008 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

Applicant argued that, "Neither Walker nor Sehr teaches or suggests that first

and second data records are compared to determined if identifier has been assigned for

the customer and then assigning an identifier based on the determination that an

identifier has not been assigned." (page 13, starting at the last para., and thru page 14,

and ending at 2nd para., in the remarks).

Sehr teaches comparing the biometrics information comprising digital fingerprint,

as a fingerprint identifier of a particular customer or passenger with the record

previously stored and existing information or customer identifier – first and second data

record, assigned to the particular customer (page 35, 0035, lines 1-10, page 7, 0049,

page 13, 0081 and 0083; also see para. 0047, 0062, 0066 and 0079). And Walker

teaches using a test procedure to determine or verify the identifier that has not assigned

to the customer: figs. 16s' col. 13, lines 8-25; col. 21, lines 7-52).

Applicant argued that, "Neither Walker nor Sehr nor Coates teaches or suggests a unique identifier is stored a list of electronic storage facility containing customer information and associated identifying information." (page 14, the last paragraph, in the remarks).

Sehr teaches databases comprising unique identification numbers for the passenger or unique identifier for passenger (para. 0032, lines 1-15, 0041, lines 12-28 and 0057, lines 15-25). Coates teaches unique file identifiers or storage resource locators as unique identifiers for storage medium in the storage cluster system (abstract, col. 5, lines 50-54, col. 7, lines 1-16 and col. 9, lines 12-67).

For the above reasons, Examiner believed that rejection of the last Office action was proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of

the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g)

prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6.   Claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-14, 16-20, 22-28, 32-35, 40-42 and 47 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.: 6,134,534 issued to Walker et

al. (hereinafter Walker) in view of Pub. No. US 2002/0100802 A1 to SEHR (Provisional

Application No.: 60/050,648, filed on Jun 24, 1997).

With respect to claim 1, Walker teaches a method for sharing customer

information among a plurality of electronic facilities (a method for CPO management

central server accessing the shared customer data storing at data storage devices: fig.

2 and col. 9, lines 60-67), comprising:

providing a master data store comprising in a first data record identifying

information for a customer having an associated first customer identifier (via airline

reservation system as shown in fig. 5b; see fig. 1, distributed databases (10), (20) and

(30) are associated with the plurality of remote system entities that comprise the card

station, travel center and service providers, respectively. The database scheme

comprises database storage means for storing data and information in a distributed

manner between and among those remote entities including the portable passenger

card. The databases include the data records that relate to the system entities and to

the passenger card contents: page, 0030, lines 1-30).

receiving identifying information on the customer from an electronic storage

facility containing information about the customer including a second customer identifier

that is different from the first customer identifier (the CPO (Conditional Purchase Offer)

database preferably stores an indication of the total number of passengers traveling

together, and sets forth the price the customer is willing to pay per ticket. Any other

miscellaneous restrictions specified by the customer will be recorded, such as preferred

airline(s), flights, or seat assignments. Recording the current status of the respective

CPO, such as pending, accepted, rejected or expired. Finally, if the CPO ultimately

results in a ticket being booked for the customer, the Passenger Name Record number

(PNR) associated with the ticket is stored in the record. Generally, a PNR is a record

stored by the CRS (Central Reservation System) containing information for each

ticketed passenger, including: record number, passenger name(s), address for ticketing,

billing information, such as credit card number, carrier(s) and flight number(s) for all

segments, seat assignments, inventory class, aircraft type, airline-issued authorization

code for discounted fare, selling price, and additional comments. Thus, in such an

alternate or supplemental embodiment, prior to accessing the inventory database, the

CPO management system 100 will preferably query the CRS to identify possible flights

which satisfy the customer's itinerary restrictions. Thereafter, the CPO management

system will access the inventory database to determine if the airline has released any

inventory on such identified flights to the CPO management system for sale to CPO

customers. In one embodiment, the list of identified flights from the CRS can be

sequenced to optimize customer preferences, and the inventory database can be

searched in the order of the sequenced list of flights, until available inventory is

identified. Finally, if any available inventory satisfying the customer's itinerary is

identified, then the CPO management system will access the pricing database to

determine if the price specified by the customer exceeds the minimum price defined by

the airline, pricing database: customer database containing a plurality of customers or

passenger's data record including identifying information for each individual customer

stored in the customer database: see figs. 1, 4 and 6 col. 14, lines 5-18, col. 15, lines

30-47 and col. 17, lines 5-25);

storing the received identifying information in a second data record (a customer

database, airline database or flight database or CPO database stored the client or

customer information, identifying information of the customers or clients who registered

for the cruise or airline reservation system with the same name but different ID number:

see figs. 6-10s);

assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination that an identifier is not assigned to the customer (each client is assigned an identifier based on the stored database: such as customer ID or CPO ID for CPO customer and a test procedure to determine or verify the identifier that has not assigned to the customer: figs. 16s' col. 13, lines 8-25; col. 21, lines 7-52);

cross-referencing the assigned identifier with identifying information stored in the first and second data records (the CPO database identifies the customer by name (primary passenger name), and by identification number (customer ID) and identifies any companion passengers. The ID number stored in companion passengers is preferably utilized to cross-reference the corresponding information stored for the customer in the customer database (see fig. 9a, item 935, 940 and 945, col. 15, lines 12-17); and

providing identifying information using the assigned identifier on an electronic storage facility (see figs. 6-7, col. 14, lines 5-32).

Walker teaches a plurality of data storage devices storing the client or customer information for central reservation system and airlines reservation system data, each data source or database containing identifying information for each client or customer including customer ID or customer identifier from which it is used to identify a particular customer or entity associated with customer database; also customer detail is used to describe the customer identified by customer identifier. Walker also teaches ID number of customer is utilized as cross-reference the corresponding information for the stored customer in the customer database between the reservation systems. Walker does not

explicitly teach comparing the identifying information in the first and second data

records to determine if an identifier is assigned to the customer as claimed.

However, SEHR teaches passenger ID number and passenger's SSN: identifying

information in the records that are associated the same customer. The passenger's

demographics data such as name, address, birth date, and telephone number;

cardholder identification information such as a passenger ID number, SSN (Social

Security Number), or check guarantee number; and an electronic representation of

cardholder documents such as a driver's license, identity card, or passport. Digital

Biometric characteristics information such as fingerprints, voice, signature, eye

characteristics or picture/facial features of a particular passenger. Also stored are the

overall terms and conditions the passenger card has to conform to when being used,

data and information about the card's eligibility for a particular itinerary or a specific

application/service, information about the card utilization including services

rendered and travel performed via the passenger card, and the passenger's

credit history including approvals or declines of card-based payment

transactions or fund transfers. The stored background data elements comprise

plain data that can be displayed and modified by all system users, restricted

information that can be accessed or manipulated only by an authorized entity or

by the cardholder, and certified data that can be retrieved and viewed but

changed only by the certification center. Data and information can also be

inputted into the background-field, including the instruction-window, after the

passenger card is issued. For example, a cardholder can enter additional data,

such as time management information to tailor the card for a particular card

utilization purpose, or a issuer of card-based documents can update the

document-related data, such as a license or an immunization pass with new

information (paragraphs 0052 and 0070) and comparing the biometrics information

comprising digital fingerprint, as a fingerprint identifier of a particular customer or

passenger with the record previously stored and existing information or customer

identifier – first and second data record, assigned to the particular customer (page 35,

0035, lines 1-10, page 7, 0049, page 13, 0081 and 0083; also see para. 0047, 0062,

0066 and 0079).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker with the teachings of

SEHR. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the

use of determining that identifying information of the first and the second of the same

customer as disclosed (SEHR's paragraph 0052), into the system of Walker for the

purpose of storage and processing of data and information, identification and

authentication schemes, as well as for hosting a traveler's pass, payment and a plurality

of application-specific traveling services, and the convenience of using the same

passenger card for transportation, identification, card-based payment means, and for

other travel-related applications and services, thereby, enabling the agent/officer to

verify passengers and use rights will be consolidated (SEHR's paragraphs 0008 and

0010).

With respect to claim 2, Walker teaches retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier (col. 15, lines 30-45).

With respect to claim 5, Walker teaches wherein determining comprises: standardizing the received identifying information and comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store (col. 7, lines 65-67 and col. 8, lines 1-25).

With respect to claim 6, Walker teaches wherein cross-referencing comprises: creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second filed stores the identifying information (CPO database record having the first filed is primary passenger name and the second field is customer ID: fig 9a, item 935 and 940).

Claim 7 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 8 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 11 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 12 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Claim 13 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 14 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 17 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 18 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 19, Walker teaches a system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities (a method for CPO management central server accessing the shared customer data storing at data storage devices: fig. 2 and col. 9, lines 60-67), comprising:

a plurality of electronic storage facilities for storing customer information associated with and identifying a customer; a master data store comprising in a first data record identifying information for the customer having an associated first customer

identifier; and an information system for receiving customer information from an

electronic storage facility, said information system capable of: receiving identifying

information on the customer from an electronic storage facility containing information on

the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first

customer identifier (see figs. 1, 4 and 6 col. 14, lines 5-18, col. 15, lines 30-47 and col.

17, lines 5-25; see fig. 1, distributed databases (10), (20) and (30) are associated with

the plurality of remote system entities that comprise the card station, travel center and

service providers, respectively. The database scheme comprises database storage

means for storing data and information in a distributed manner between and among

those remote entities including the portable passenger card. The databases include the

data records that relate to the system entities and to the passenger card contents: page,

0030, lines 1-30); storing the received identifying information in a second data record;

assigning an identifier for the customer based on a result of the determination that an

identifier is not assigned to the customer; and providing identifying information using the

assigned identifier to an electronic storage facility (via airline reservation system as

shown in fig. 5b; fig. 6, customer database containing a plurality of customers or

passenger's data record including identifying information for each individual customer

stored in the customer database: col. 14, lines 5-18; a customer database, airline

database or flight database or CPO database stored the client or customer information,

identifying information of the customers or clients who registered for the cruise or airline

reservation system with the same name but different ID number: see figs. 6-10s; each

client is assigned an identifier based on the stored database: such as customer ID or

CPO ID for CPO customer and a test procedure to determine or verify the identifier that

has not assigned to the customer: figs. 16s' col. 13, lines 8-25; col. 21, lines 7-52; and

see figs. 6-7, col. 14, lines 5-32) and cross-referencing the identifier with identifying

information stored in the first and second data records within the master data store (the

CPO database identifies the customer by name (primary passenger name), and by

identification number (customer ID) and identifies any companion passengers. The ID

number stored in companion passengers is preferably utilized to cross-reference the

corresponding information stored for the customer in the customer database (see fig.

9a, item 935, 940 and 945, col. 15, lines 12-17).

Walker teaches a plurality of data storage devices storing the client or customer

information for central reservation system and airlines reservation system data, each

data source or database containing identifying information for each client or customer

including customer ID or customer identifier from which it is used to identify a particular

customer or entity associated with customer database; also customer detail is used to

describe the customer identified by customer identifier. Walker also teaches ID number

of customer is utilized as cross-reference the corresponding information for the stored

customer in the customer database between the reservation systems. Walker does not

explicitly teach comparing the identifying information in the first and second data

records to determine if an identifier is assigned to the customer as claimed.

However, SEHR teaches passenger ID number and passenger's SSN: identifying

information in the records that are associated the same customer. The passenger's

demographics data such as name, address, birth date, and telephone number;

cardholder identification information such as a passenger ID number, SSN (Social

Security Number), or check guarantee number; and an electronic representation of

cardholder documents such as a driver's license, identity card, or passport. Digital

Biometric characteristics information such as fingerprints, voice, signature, eye

characteristics or picture/facial features of a particular passenger. Also stored are the

overall terms and conditions the passenger card has to conform to when being used,

data and information about the card's eligibility for a particular itinerary or a specific

application/service, information about the card utilization including services

rendered and travel performed via the passenger card, and the passenger's

credit history including approvals or declines of card-based payment

transactions or fund transfers. The stored background data elements comprise

plain data that can be displayed and modified by all system users, restricted

information that can be accessed or manipulated only by an authorized entity or

by the cardholder, and certified data that can be retrieved and viewed but

changed only by the certification center. Data and information can also be

inputted into the background-field, including the instruction-window, after the

passenger card is issued. For example, a cardholder can enter additional data,

such as time management information to tailor the card for a particular card

utilization purpose, or a issuer of card-based documents can update the

document-related data, such as a license or an immunization pass with new

information (paragraphs 0052 and 0070) and comparing the biometrics information

comprising digital fingerprint, as a fingerprint identifier of a particular customer or

passenger with the record previously stored and existing information or customer

identifier – first and second data record, assigned to the particular customer (page 35,

0035, lines 1-10, page 7, 0049, page 13, 0081 and 0083; also see para. 0047, 0062,

0066 and 0079).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker with the teachings of

SEHR. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the

use of determining that identifying information of the first and the second of the same

customer as disclosed (SEHR's paragraph 0052), into the system of Walker for the

purpose of storage and processing of data and information, identification and

authentication schemes, as well as for hosting a traveler's pass, payment and a plurality

of application-specific traveling services, and the convenience of using the same

passenger card for transportation, identification, card-based payment means, and for

other travel-related applications and services, thereby, enabling the agent/officer to

verify passengers and use rights will be consolidated (SEHR's paragraphs 0008 and

0010).

With respect to claim 20, Walker teaches wherein said information system is

further configured to: retrieve customer information from the master data store based on

the identifier (col. 15, lines 30-45).

With respect to claim 22, Walker teaches wherein said information system cross-

references the identifier with the customer information by creating a record in a table

within the master data store having first and second fields, wherein the first filed stores

the identifier and the second filed stores the customer information (CPO database

record having the first filed is primary passenger name and the second field is customer

ID: fig 9a, item 935 and 940).

Claim 23 is essentially the same as claim 19 except that it is directed to a system

rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 19

hereinabove.

With respect to claim 24, Walker teaches wherein when said information system

receives an inquiry for information associated with a customer, said information system

provides information indicating which electronic storage facilities contain information

related to the customer and the identification used by each electronic facility to identify

the customer's information (col. 15, lines 30-45; also col. 14, lines 5-18; and col. 22,

lines 8-35 and col. 23, lines 1-8).

Claim 25 is essentially the same as claim 23 except that it is directed to a system

for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same

reason as applied to the claim 23 hereinabove.

Claim 26 is essentially the same as claim 24 except that it is directed to a system

for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same

reason as applied to the claim 24 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 27, Walker teaches wherein the first and second data

records comprise identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of

the electronic storage facility containing the customer information (col. 1, lines 5-18)

With respect to claim 28, Walker teaches wherein said cross-referencing comprises cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information for the first and second data records (the CPO database identifies the customer by name (primary passenger name), and by identification number (customer ID) and identifies any companion passengers. The ID number stored in companion passengers is preferably utilized to cross-reference the corresponding information stored for the customer in the customer database (see fig. 9a, item 935, 940 and 945, col. 15, lines 12-17).

With respect to claim 32, Walker in view of SEHR teaches wherein said providing step provides a mass data store comprising a plurality of data records, wherein some of the data records are for the same customer but stored in different electronic storage facilities, where the electronic storage facilities use the same customer identifier (SEHR's paragraph's 0035, 0047 0049, 0062, 0066 and 0079).

With respect to claim 33, Walker teaches wherein the customer information is travel-related information (abstract, fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 8-35).

Claim 34 is essentially the same as claim 27 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 27 hereinabove.

Claim 35 is essentially the same as claim 28 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 28 hereinabove.

Claim 40 is essentially the same as claim 33 except that it is directed to a computer for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 33 hereinabove.

Claim 41 is essentially the same as claim 27 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 27 hereinabove.

Claim 42 is essentially the same as claim 28 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 28 hereinabove.

Claim 47 is essentially the same as claim 33 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 33 hereinabove.

7.   Claims 3-4, 9-10, 15-16, 21, 30, 37, 39, 44 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.: 6,134,534 issued to Walker et al.

(hereinafter Walker) in view of Pub. No. US 2002/0100802 A1 to SEHR (Provisional

Application No.: 60/050,648, filed on Jun 24, 1997 and further in view of US Patent No.:

7,281,168 B1 issued to Coates et al. (hereinafter Coates).

With respect to claims 3 and 30, Walker in view of SEHR discloses a method for

sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities as

discussed in claims 1 and 25.

Walker and SEHR disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Walker and SEHR do not teach wherein identifying information

includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting

identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the

electronic storage facility.

However, Coates teaches the storage cluster consists of distributed object

storage managers ("DOSMs") 320 and intelligent storage nodes the storage center

includes a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) and a storage

cluster that includes a plurality of intelligent storage nodes. the DOSM file lookup table

stores, in the file identification column, the 128 bit string, with the file designation "MD5."

The second column of the DOSM file lookup table stores the IP address of the

intelligent storage node that stores the object file (e.g., "10.3.100.1"). The third column,

labeled disk ID, stores an integer value that identifies the specific disk drive on the

intelligent storage node that stores the object file. The customer ID is a network storage

system identifier used to uniquely identify the client. The customer name is the real name associated with a customer. For the first example entry in the customer table, "customer A" has a customer ID of "1." The customer reserved fields provide storage reserved for use by the client. The customer ID, the same customer ID stored in the customer table, uniquely identifies the client. For the example entries in folder table, the customer ID of "3" identifies that the folders have been assigned to "customer C." The folder ID identifies the specific folder for that entry: abstract, and figs. 6, 7 and 12, col. 7, lines 1-25, col. 11, lines 12-54 and col. 15, lines 15-57). Thus, identifying information includes: Disk ID or Folder ID is storage identifier, customer ID is for identifying customer information and also, metadata is information/data related to identifying customer. Also, a list of storage resource locators (SRL) for a unique identifier of file storages in the storage cluster: abstract, col. 5, lines 50-54, col. 7, lines 1-16 and col. 9, lines 12-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker in view of SEHR with the teachings of Coates by incorporating the use of identifying information containing customer ID, Disk ID or folder ID and metadata data as disclosed (fig. 12), into the system of Walker for the purpose of enabling the systems to locate and access directly these types of storages (Coates's col. 2, lines 12-25).

With respect to claim 4, Walker teaches wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address (col. 14, lines 10-16).

Claim 9 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a computer rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 10 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a computer rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 15 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 16 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 21 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 37, Walker in view of SEHR and Coates teaches wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising the customer information and a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility (Coates' figs. 6, 7 and 12, col. 7, lines 1-25, col. 11, lines 12-54 and col. 15, lines 15-57).

With respect to claim 39, Walker in view of SEHR teaches, wherein said mass data store comprises a plurality of data records, wherein some of the data records are

for the same customer but stored in different electronic storage facilities, where the electronic storage facilities use the same customer identifier (SEHR's paragraph's 0035, 0047 0049, 0062, 0066 and 0079).

Claim 44 is essentially the same as claim 37 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a computer, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 37 hereinabove.

Claim 46 is essentially the same as claim 39 except that it is directed to a system for sharing customer information rather than a computer, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 39 hereinabove.

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to ANH LY whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or

via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV (Written Authorization being given by Applicant

(MPEP 502.03 [R-2])) or fax to **(571) 273-4039** (unofficial fax number directly to

examiner's office). The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY

from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are

unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John Breene**, can be reached on **(571) 272-**

4107 or Primary Examiner, **Jean Fleurantin**, can be reached on **(571) 272-4035**.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed

to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to:

Central Fax Center: (571) 273-8300.

ANH LY /AL/

/JEAN B. FLEURANTIN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162